



BUSINESS & LABOR
EXHIBIT NO. 5
DATE 2-6-15
BILL NO. HB147

February 2, 2015

Senator Ed Buttrey, Chair
Business, Labor, and Economic Committee
Montana Senate
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Re: HB147 "An act adopting the nurse compact."

Dear Senator Buttrey:

On behalf of the Montana Telehealth Alliance we are asking your support in passing HB147 "An act adopting the nurse compact." The compact allows nurses to have one license issued by the primary state of residence with the privilege to practice in other compact states both physically and via technology. The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) provides that the nurse is held accountable for complying with the nursing practice laws of the state where the patient is located at the time care is rendered.

The NLC enables the provision of telehealth services by reducing the administrative and financial burden of obtaining multiple state licenses. It also clarifies the authority of nurses currently practicing telenursing or interstate practice.

Nursing practice is changing every day. Electronic access to patients no longer requires the provider and the patient to be located in the same place. Building a strong regulatory model for the future that recognizes the rapid changes in healthcare and protects the public is in the best interest of the nursing profession and the patients they serve.

The Montana Telehealth Alliance urges you to pass this important and timely legislation.

Sincerely,

Thelma McClosky Armstrong, Director
Eastern Montana Telemedicine Network
Billings Clinic

Jack King, President
REACH Montana Telehealth Network
Benefis Health System

Doris Barta MHA, Director
Partners in Health Telemedicine Network
St. Vincent Healthcare

Kip Smith
Telehealth Service Director
Kalispell Regional Healthcare